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“Alternative Energy”—“Renewable Fuels”—“Sustainability”—“Less Dependence on Fossil Fuels”

LANSING – Buzz words all. Yes, everyone is talking about energy—the cost, the over-reliance on fossil fuels, the threats to our environment—“Mother Earth.”

But is anyone doing anything to fix the problems, address the concerns? Yes! And how!

“Michigan can be the national leader in the development, production, and use of renewable and alternative fuels,” state Sen. Bruce Patterson, chairman of the Senate Committee on Technology and Energy, said today. “Will it be easy? No. It will take serious commitment. Government leaders, fuel producers, private citizens—we all need to get beyond our business-as-usual attitude to reach this goal.”

Patterson, 7th District, announced that legislation that will make renewable fuels widely available and revitalize Michigan’s agriculture industry has been introduced in the Michigan Senate.

Senate Bill 1078, sponsored by Patterson, will create 10 new renaissance zones in Michigan to be used specifically for manufacturing alternative energy. This will increase the supply of E85, an 85 percent blend of ethanol, for Michigan business and industry. Other legislation in the package focuses on B5, a 5 percent blend of biodiesel.

“My bill provides wonderful incentives for producers and consumers,” Patterson said. “It breaks new ground in providing Michigan an environmentally healthy, cost-effective answer to our fuel problem while boosting our agriculture economy,” Patterson said.

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